

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 9827

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SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY BIO DATA ON NEW CABINET MEMBERS

REF: A. ATHENS 9628; B. ATHENS 9629

1. BIO NOTES ON THE MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS
APPOINTED SEP 10 FOLLOW. THE INFO IS INTENDED TO
SUPPLEMENT DATA WHICH OUR FILES SHOW IS ALREADY HELD
IN WASHINGTON.

2. JOHN BOUTOS, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: BOUTOS APPOINTMENT
TO OVERSEE THE CRITICAL AGRICULTURE SECTOR IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT OF THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES ANNOUNCED SEP 10.
BOUTOS IS A "MODERN MAN". HE WILL NEED ALL OF HIS CON-
SIDERABLE TALENT, INTELLIGENCE AND HIS 25 YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE IN GREEK NATIONAL POLITICS, IF HE IS TO MAKE
A SUCCESS OF WHAT PROMISES TO BE A MONUMENTAL TASK: MOVING
GREEK AGRICULTURE INTO 20 CENTURY AND ADJUSTING IT
TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HIS CLOSE
TIES TO CARAMANLIS WILL HELP HIM. BUT HE IS SOMETHING OF A
LONER WHO DOES NOT WORK EASILY WITH OTHERS, AND
THE ATTACK ON THE OUTMODED STRUCTURES OF GREEK
AGRICULTURE MUST BE A COOPERATIVE ONE. IF HE CAN
WORK WITH OTHERS -- AND OTHERS WITH HIM -- BOUTOS
APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER WILL BE A MOST FORTUNATE ONE.

3. HIPPOCRATES IORDANOGLU, MINISTER OF INTERIOR:
AT 66, IORDANOGLU IS A REPRESENTATIVE PAR EXCELLENCE,
OF THE TRADITIONAL GREEK POLITICIAN. BORN IN TURKEY,
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AND BROUGHT TO GREECE BY HIS PARENTS DURING THE MASS

MIGRATION OF 1922, HE MADE HIS PERSONAL FORTUNE AND HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN NORTHERN GREECE. HE FINALLY SETTLED ON THE RIGHT OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, AND BUILT HIS FOLLOWING THE WAY MOST POLITICIANS DO IN GREECE: BY DOING SMALL FAVORS FOR AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. HIS NEW MINISTRY, WHICH OVERSEES ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN GREECE, IS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE PRECISELY BECAUSE IT TOUCHES SO MANY PEOPLE AND IS ABLE TO DO SO MANY SMALL FAVORS FOR SO MANY OF THEM. HIS PERFORMANCE AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WAS GENERALLY VIEWED AS COMPETENT BUT CONVENTIONAL AND GEARED TO SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES. THE NEW JOB SHOULD MATCH HIS TALENTS MORE CLOSELY WITH HIS JOB.

4. CONSTANTICE STEFANOPOULOS, MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES: A 50 YEAR OLD LAWYER WHO EARNED A REPUTATION IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AS BEING BOTH ENERGETIC AND ABLE WHO, WE HAVE HEARD FREQUENTLY, HAS EARNED THE RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. MOREOVER, HE HAS BEEN REGARDED GENERALLY AS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG LEADERS OF THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY AND EVEN BY SOME AS PRIME MINISTERIAL TIMBER. HIS MOVE TO THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TO WHICH CARAMANLIS HAS ALSO NAMED TWO YOUNG AND ABLE DEPUTY MINISTERS (SEE BELOW), INDICATES THAT THE GOVT IS INTENT TO DELIVER BETTER HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES -- THE FORMER WOEFULLY DEFICIENT IN THE GREEK COUNTRYSIDE AND VILLAGES -- WITH THE RESULTING POLITICAL PAYOFF FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

5. ARISTIDES KALANTZAKOS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF COORDINATION: WHEN THE OLDER GENERATION OF GREEK POLITICIANS PASSES ON THE TORCH OF LEADERSHIP KALANTZAKOS WILL PROBABLY BE AMONG THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT, AND THAT IS ALL TO THE GOOD. AT 48 HE HAS CLIMBED STEADILY THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE MODERATE RIGHT, KEEPING AS CLOSE AS HE COULD TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. BRIGHT, THOUGHTFUL, AND ARTICULATE HE IS ALSO SOMEWHAT RESERVED. A WELL-ESTABLISHED, RELIABLE AND VALUABLE EMBASSY CONTACT, KALANTZAKOS IS VERY COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF A FIRM US-GREEK ALLIANCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE HAS LONG HAD HIS EYE ON A CABINET OR SUB-CABINET POSITION IN THE CURRENT GOVT IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. KALANTZAKOS HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN EC MATTERS AND PARTICIPATES IN THE JOINT EC-GREEK PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE. A LAWYER BY TRAINING, HE STUDIED ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN FRANCE. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND IS MARRIED TO A US CITIZEN.

6. CONSTANTINE TRICOUPIS, DEPUTY MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:
TRICOUPIS RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE
RESTRICTED TO DEALING WITH OVERSEAS GREEKS, A RECENTLY
ESTABLISHED NEW POSITION WHICH REFLECTS THE GROWING
RECOGNITION HERE OF THE NEED TO HAVE CLOSER CONTACT
WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF GREEKS LIVING ABROAD. WHILE
A THEORETICALLY IMPORTANT JOB FOR
MOBILIZING OVERSEAS GREEK SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELAND,
IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT UNDER TRICOUPIS, OR ANYONE ELSE,
THE POSITION AND ITS DUTIES CAN MAKE MORE THAN A
MARGINAL CONTRIBUTION TO THIS TASK. ALSO WELL KNOWN
TO THE EMBASSY, TRICOUPIS, FROM ONE OF THE MOST POLITICALLY
PROMINENT FAMILIES IN THE EARLY YEARS OF MODERN
GREECE, HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED ONE OF THE COMERS,
WITH HIS WAGON FIRMLY HITCHED TO CARAMANLIS STAR,
AMONG GREEK CONSERVATIVES. MARRIED, TRICOUPIS
SPEAKS ENGLISH.

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7. DIMITRIOS DAVAKIS, DEPUTY MIN OF DEFENSE:
EIGHT TIMES ELECTED DEPUTY,
AND 69 YEARS OLD, DAVAKIS
IS AN OLD FACE. THIS IS HIS FGZRTN APPOINTMENT AS A
DEPUTY MINISTER IN A CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT
(OF COMMUNICATIONS, 1955-56; OF DEFENSE, 1956-58; AND
INTERIOR, 1961-62). IN NONE OF THESE JOBS DID HE
DISTINGUISH HIMSELF -- RATHER TO THE CONTRARY.
HOWEVER, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL TO CARAMANLIS
AND LOYALTY IS A QUALITY DEEPLY ESTEEMED IN GREECE,
HE IS MARRIED.

8. ANDREAS ZAIMIS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE:

A 44 YEAR OLD FRESHMAN PARLIAMENTARIAN, HE HAD BEEN SERVING AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE SINCE THE INTERIM CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WHICH CARAMANLIS SET UP FOR A SHORT PERIOD IN NOV 1974 BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. WELL THOUGHT OF BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN PARLIAMENT, LIKE SO MANY OF THE OTHER FIRST-TIME DEPUTIES, ZAIMIS COMES FROM AN OLD GREEK POLITICAL FAMILY. MARRIED. ZAIMIS SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

9. LINA KOUTIFARI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND RELIGIONS (RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION): A MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO TRAINED AT NYU AND WORKED WITH DR. PAPANICOLAOU OF PAP SMEAR FAME, MRS. KOUTIFARI WAS ASKED PERSONALLY BY CARAMANLIS TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT ON THE NEW DEMOCRACY TICKET IN THE NOV 1974 ELECTIONS. AN ADVOCATE OF REFORMS AND MODERNIZATION IN GREECE'S UNIVERSITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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CARAMANLIS, TO WHOM SHE HAS HAD ACCESS UNLIKE MOST FIRST-TIME DEPUTIES, IS APPARENTLY GIVING HER A CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE HER ADMIN ABILITY. A CONSERVATIVE (HER HUSBAND WAS THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN -- GYNECOLOGIST -- TO THE FORMER QUEEN), MRS. KOUTIFARI IS ALSO ONE OF GREECE'S MORE PROMINENT SUPPORTERS OF WOMEN'S LIB. SHE HAS A SON STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND A DAUGHTER STUDYING IN LONDON.

10. VASSILIOS KONTOYIANNPOULOS, DEPUTY MIN OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND RELIGIONS: 34 YEARS OLD, KONTOYIANNPOULOS IS ANOTHER NEW FACE. HE, TOO, COMES FROM A FAMILY WITH A LONG POLITICAL TRADITION IN THE PELOPONNESE (ILIA REGION). HE STUDIED LAW AT THE UNIV OF ATHENS AND THE SORBONNE IN PARIS. HE IS MARRIED.

11. MILTIADES EVERT, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: AT 37, EVERT HAS STRUCK US AS BRIGHT, THOUGHTFUL, ARTICULATE AND ENGAGING. HE IS WELL LIKED BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE PARLIAMENT AND HAS UNDERTAKEN TO TRY TO ESTABLISH A PHILOSOPHICAL/IDEOLOGICAL POSITION FOR GREEK CONSERVATISM IN GENERAL AND THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY IN PARTICULAR, AND PUBLISHES, WITH TWO OTHER COLLEAGUES IN THE PARLIAMENT, A POLITICAL REVIEW DEDICATED TO THESE PURPOSES. HE DEFINITELY SEEMS TO BE A COMER. MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN (THE DAUGHTER OF A FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES), HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. EVERT WAS ABOUT TO DEPART ON A VISIT TO THE US ON THE IV PROGRAM WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE GOVT.

12. IOANNIS FIKIORIS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:
BORN 1917, FIKIORIS IS ONE OF THE OLDEST OF THE FIRST TIME
PARLIAMENTARIANS. A LAWYER BY PROFESSION, HE ALSO
STUDIED ECONOMICS. HE IS MARRIED.

13. GEORGE TZITZIKOSTAS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:
35, A LAWYER BY PROFESSION WITH ECONOMIC
TRAINING IN FRANCE, AND LARGE REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS
IN NORTH GREECE. TZITZIKOSTAS IS ANOTHER FRESHMAN
PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO COMES FROM AN OLD GREEK POLITICAL
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FAMILY. HE HAS IMPRESSED US AS CAPABLE AND HARD
WORKING. HE IS ALSO VERY CONSERVATIVE IN HIS VIEWS ON
GREECE, ON THE POLITICS OF GREECE AND ON THE PROPER
ECONOMICS FOR GREECE. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, AS
DOES HIS ATTRACTIVE WIFE.

14. STAVROS TATARIDES, DEPUTY MIN OF AGRICULTURE:
BORN IN 1942, AND YET ANOTHER FIRST TIME DEPUTY,
TATARIDES STUDIED ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY OF
MASS AND IS AN ECONOMIST BY PROFESSION.
MARRIED HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

15. ARISTIDES KATSAOUNIS, DEPUTY MIN OF INDUSTRY
AND ENERGY: A 56 YEAR OLD LAWYER KATSAOUNIS
IS ALSO A FIRST TERM CONGRESSMAN. HE IS MARRIED.

16. IOANNIS KEFALOYIANNIS, DEPUTY MIN OF SOCIAL SERVICES
(FOR HEALTH): A DOCTOR BY TRAINING, KEFALOYIANNIS
IS BY BIRTH A MEMBER OF AN IMPORTANT CRETAN POLITICAL
FAMILY AND BY MARRIAGE CONNECTED TO ANOTHER ONE (THE
VARDINOYIANNIS FAMILY). HE IS BRIGHT AND ATTRACTIVE.
AT 44 HE HAS BEEN ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT FOUR
TIMES, A TRIBUTE NOT ONLY TO THE VALUE OF HIS FAMILY
CONNECTIONS BUT ALSO TO HIS OWN UNDOUBTED ABILITY AS
A POLITICIAN. HE HAS A SOLID POLITICAL BASE IN CRETE,
AND, WITH HIS OTHER ASSETS, SEEMS DESTINED FOR A LONG
RUN ON THE GREEK POLITICAL STAGE. HE IS MARRIED.

17. ANDREAS ANDRIANOPOULOS DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL
SERVICES (FOR WELFARE): BORN IN 1946, ANDRIANOPOULOS
IS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND OF THE GOVT.
A POLITICAL SCIENTIST TRAINED IN GREECE, ENGLAND
AND NORWAY, HE RETURNED TO GREECE IN 1974 TO ASSUME A
SEAT IN PARLIAMENT THAT HAS BEEN TRADITIONALLY HELD BY
HIS FAMILY. WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE BOTH EXCEPTIONALLY
INTELLIGENT AND ENGAGING. HE ALSO HAS MAINTAINED,
PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS TRAINING ABROAD, A REFRESHING
CRITICAL DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE GREEK

POLITICAL WORLD. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND IS A BACHELOR.

18. THEOHARIS RENDIS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:
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RENDIS WAS ONE OF THE FEW 1965 APOSTATES FROM THE CENTER UNION TO GAIN ELECTION ON THE CARAMANLIS TICKET IN 1974. FOR MANY YEARS RENDIS, WHO IS NOW 51 YEARS OLD, HAS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF THE EMBASSY AND OF EMBASSY OFFICERS. THE DESCRIPTION CONCEIVED OVER THE YEARS OF RENDIS AS INTELLIGENT, URGANE AND AFFABLE REMAINS APT. FOR THE RECORD, HE TOO IS THE PRODUCT OF AN OLD POLITICAL FAMILY. HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER FIVE DAYS BEFORE HIS PLANNED DEPARTURE FOR THE US ON AN IVP GRANT, WHICH HE HAD TO CANCEL.

19. ATHANASSIOS TSALDARIS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: ANOTHER FAMILIAR FIGURE TO WASHINGTON THROUGH VISITS AND EMBASSY REPORTING OVER THE YEARS, TSALDARIS ACHIEVED WHATEVER PROMINENCE HE HAS OBTAINED LARGELY BY VIRTUE OF HIS FAMILY NAME; HIS FATHER AND HIS UNCLE WERE CONSERVATIVE PRIME MINISTERS OF GREECE. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY AND, LIKE SO MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES, WOULD NOT BE UNCOMFORTABLE TO KNOW THAT HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. TSALDARIS IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATO AND HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE GREEK DELEGATION TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, IN WHICH HE IS ALSO ACTIVE.
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